



Page 7 Airport slays pet dog

The alleged fatal beating of a poodle has pet owners planning other ways to vacation with their best friends.

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2012 ballet galas

The National Center for Performing Arts is planning two galas this year. In addition to inviting the stars of the world, it hopes to give China's own dance giants a chance to shine.



Love across cultures



Love may know no bounds, but it can still have a hard time when it goes abroad. For international couples in conflict, 33-year-old American blogger Jocelyn Eikenberg has answers.

Her website has become the go-to nexus for foreigners with Chinese sweetheart. She and her Chinese husband "John" dish out practical advice for fellow couples bedeviled by cultural conflicts.

Read more on Page 4



Web security in question

Hacker raid behind biggest user data leak

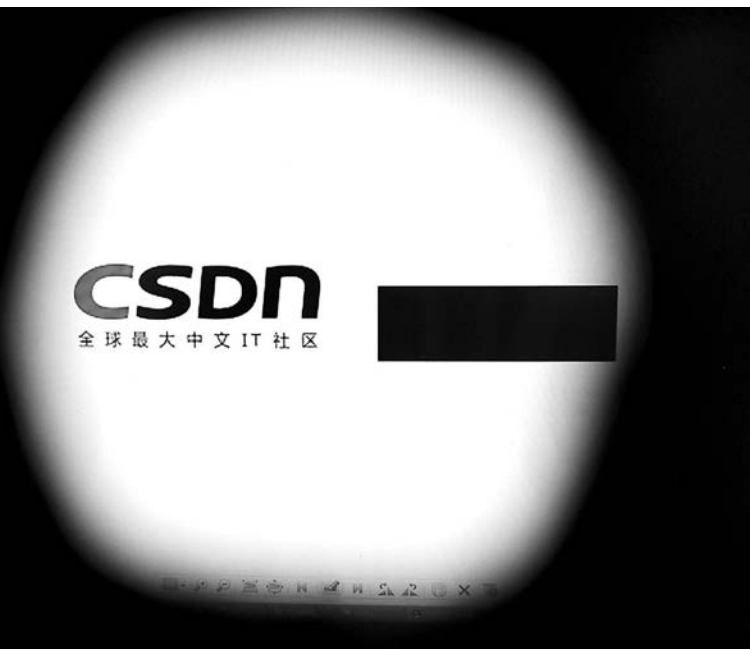
By Huang Daohen

Hacking gets old when it's only carried out in one's own dark corner. For more enthusiastic hackers who are dedicated to the life, the real challenge and fame comes from exposing security holes in popular domestic websites.

A recent hacker raid was behind the record-setting leak of more than 100 million users' personal data. The event has called attention to the severely fragile nature of the nation's Internet security.

The hacking of CSDN case and high-profile websites have exposed the country's fragility of China's Internet security.

CFP Photo



Busy week on the Web

The past week has been a busy one for millions of Internet users.

But not because they were celebrating the new year. Rather, millions were scrambling to change their passwords after a massive data leak.

On December 21, CSDN.net, the country's top site for software engineers, was hacked. The hackers published the account information of more than 6 million users, Xinhua reported.

One day later, Tianya, the biggest Chinese Web forum, was also brought down by a similar attack that exposed the information of about 40 million users.

But the cyber attack didn't end.

The following targets include the country's top social networking sites Renren and Kaixin, as well as several well-known sites like the Duowan game, 360buy and Dangdang.

As of press time, incomplete figures show that over 100 million users saw their data leaked.

Hackers uploaded the sites' databases, containing personal account information

like user names, unencrypted passwords and email addresses, to locations where they could easily be obtained by malicious parties.

Xinhua called this incident the largest data leak ever in the country. And clearly, the practice brings risk to such users.

Traffic on affected websites surged over the past week, as many users hoped to change their passwords and account information before it was too late.

"This is very annoying," said Lillian Chen, a business consultant for a local firm. The 25-year-old social networking enthusiast spent almost an hour changing the passwords for all her online accounts, especially Weibo, the popular microblog.

"It seems Weibo has become part of my life," she said. "The first thing I do in the morning is check my Weibo. I say hi to my friends through Weibo instead of sending group messages to everyone like before."

"I cannot imagine if I lost my Weibo account," she said.

Loophole or negligence

CSDN and Tianya issued

apologies last week for the data leak, saying the root cause and scale of the leaks are still under investigation.

Li Lin, director of the online gaming department at Pacific Oak who owns Renren, said most of the user information stored in the sites' databases was stored in plain text. The password system did not use any encryption.

"In this regard, domestic Internet services are rather unprofessional and unreliable," Li said.

Li's view was echoed by Shi Xiaohong, vice president of local anti-virus firm Qihoo 360. Shi said many Internet companies in the country neglect the importance of protecting information.

"The incident this time taught a profound lesson to both the industry and individual users," Shi said. "Users should enhance the awareness to protect their personal information by using complicated passwords and changing those passwords regularly, and Internet firms should improve security guarantees."

Li, however, said the massive leak also showed legal

shortcomings in the industry's security law.

"As far as I know, there is currently no related law requiring companies to protect the personal information of individual Internet users," he said.

Tighter Internet security

It is still unclear how the leaks occurred, but the government is working with domestic Internet giants like Baidu, Sohu and financial institutions to prevent future attacks.

The Ministry of Public Security said over the weekend the companies will begin bumping the official websites of several major banks in search results to thwart phishing websites, which rely on creating attack sites that appear legitimate and lure a user into submitting his or her information.

The cooperation will reduce the risk of such attacks, the ministry said in a statement last Friday.

Major banks like the Agricultural Bank and Bank of Communication have denied that sensitive information of their customers was stolen during the hacker raid.

What's the buzz

Meat-eating panda caught on camera

A camera at a nature reserve in Sichuan Province spotted the first known case of a wild panda eating meat.

Staff at the Wanglong nature reserve in Sichuan set up the camera after finding dead animals with bite marks. At the time, it was not known if the panda had killed the animal.

Pandas are typically known to eat only bamboo shoots, but according to experts, it is not unheard of for them to eat meat.

Pandas ate meat millions of years ago, said Chen Youping, deputy director of the forestry department of Pingwu County in Sichuan. Now they mainly eat bamboo, but people occasionally find bones of dead animals in pandas' excrement, he said.

The panda caught on camera appears to be healthy and strong. The World Wildlife Fund, a conservation group, says that only about 1 percent of a panda's diet consists of meat or plants other than bamboo.

Rent a boyfriend on Taobao

Women looking for companionship can now cut through the hassle of dating and rent a boyfriend on e-commerce site Taobao, *Nandu Daily* reported.

The boyfriends' rental fee is based on the services they will provide, including holding hands, hugging and kissing. The temporary couples will typically go to movies, shopping, out to dinner or a similar date chosen by the woman.

The price for a boyfriend varies. A standard one-hour lunch costs 10 yuan. For an hour of shopping, the price doubles to 20 yuan. To rent a boyfriend for a full day can cost 100 yuan.

Most men who rent themselves out are looking for money, but some say they do it for love.

A 28-year-old man from Foshan, Guangdong Province named Huang posted an ad with a high price of 500 yuan to rent him. Huang says he hopes to find love and that if he finds a girl who really wants to marry him, he can adjust the price.

One girl from Beijing contacted him, but they have never met because of the distance between their homes.

(Agencies)

Behind the headline

While bored hackers might have stolen the user data for fun, that information can fetch a high price on the black market.

In a recent criminal case, Beijing police busted an online shop that specialized in buying and selling personal information, the *People's Daily* reported.

The owner, surnamed Zhao, provided shockingly detailed data about people and Internet

users. In addition to names, addresses and cell phone numbers, Zhao also had information about people's vehicle insurance expiration.

The price was usually 0.1 yuan per person with discounts for bulk order.

According to the police, Zhao obtained the information through QQ groups used by identity thieves.

"There is a huge market for people's personal infor-

mation," said Wang Bo, a real-estate broker in Chaoyang District.

Wang said the information is usually bought by insurers and housing agents who use them to make unsolicited calls or send text ads.

"This is a notorious practice of many real estate firms," said Wang, who said he too had bought such information to improve his performance.

Wang said information

sellers like Zhao often sourced the personal data from hackers who hit websites, mobile telecom operators and any companies with customer databases.

Those who want to buy personal data then start with a search on Baidu or the e-commerce site Taobao.

The key words "buy personal information" produced 4.6 million results when searched using Baidu on Thursday afternoon.

Personal data is big business

Guidelines change for foreign investors

By Zhao Hongyi

At the end of 2011, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Ministry of Commerce released the draft of new guidelines for foreign direct investment (FDI).

Among the new industries mentioned as being open to FDI are advanced manufacturing, service, advanced technologies in energy conservation, renewable sources of energy, new materials and advanced-equipment manufacturing in the industries like textiles, chemicals and machinery.

The guidelines, which come into effect on January 30, also encourage foreign investment in the recycled economy, including the recycling of used electric appliances, electronics and battery.

Industries involved in new Internet technologies based on IPv6, bio-technology, high-end equipment, new-energy vehicles and components are also positioned to attract FDI.

But traditional vehicles assembly, silicon fabrication and coal power have been struck from the list to curb surplus production.

In the service industry, the guidelines added nine sectors for investment, including vehicle charging, venture capital, intellectual property rights protection, professional training and technology for cleaning oil spills.

Medical institutions and financial leasing companies were upgraded from the original limited categories to fully allowed categories, showing the authority's determination to develop the medical service industry and financial industry to improve welfare and national vitality.

To coordinate with the country's efforts to develop the western interior, regenerate old industrial bases in the northeast and promote the development of the central provinces, the NDRC and commerce ministry promised to release new guidelines for foreign investment in these areas later this year.

The first guidelines for foreign investors were issued in 1995 and revised five times to follow the country's rapid develop-



The government revised its foreign investment catalog, making the first changes since October 2007. CFP Photo

Analysis

Foreign money wanted in green, high-tech sectors

By Huang Daohen

In a statement, the country's economic planning body NDRC said the latest change would help foreign companies get better involved in the nation's 12th Five-Year Plan.

There will be an increasing need for foreign investments in energy-saving and new-energy sources as the country updates its traditional industries, the statement said.

Wen Yijun, veteran analyst at Oriental Securities in Beijing, said the changes are within expectation as the government seeks to transform the country's economy in a high-tech and environmentally-friendly direction.

Wen said foreign investments in the Internet sector will also see support as young people are highly involved in online activities, such as gaming and microblogging.

But not all overseas enterprises pinning their hopes in China are happy. The auto makers, for instance, feel a chill.

The new rules remove the auto industry from the list of sectors of supported industries.

Though the list still included auto parts for alternative-energy vehicles, experts say the shift means the government wants to cool foreign investment in the country's auto industry.

"Somehow, the adjustment

reflects an embarrassment in the previous policy, as the policymakers want to attract both foreign capital and their high technology," Wen said.

But the reality is, while many foreign auto giants have set up joint ventures across the country to assemble vehicles and dominate the local market, they didn't transfer core technologies to their Chinese counterparts.

However, Wen said foreign automakers' joint ventures won't be immediately affected by the shift as their current production capacity can barely meet the strong demand.

Prior to the release of the new guidelines, foreign enterprises complained that the country's business environment was getting worse. Many said they would consider relocating their factories to other Asian countries like Vietnam.

Recent statistics from the Ministry of Commerce show that foreign direct investment (FDI) dropped for the first time last month to \$8.76 billion, down 9.76 percent from a year earlier.

Wen said the rare monthly dent in FDI is subject to the sluggish global economy and won't affect the annual growth rate.

"China is still the most vibrant market for foreign investors in the long run, and the environment for FDI is improving," he said.

Market watch

Latest tech dream: 3D TV

This year's CCTV New Year's Gala is promising attendees a glimpse at a new 3D video game demonstration by Sony.

But that demo could cause headaches – real ones – for millions of viewers if the country gets a new 3D television channel.

The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) is reportedly working on the project with China Central Television, and with regional TV stations from Beijing, Shanghai and three other areas.

"The launch of a 3D TV channel will be a new milestone in the history of broadcast television in China, symbolizing that China's broadcasting and television [sector] is closely following global development trends," SARFT said.

The new channel will also "bring new audiovisual enjoyment to the people," drive television upgrades and possibly fuel local development of technology and standards for 3D TV, it said.

The new channel will begin formal operations around the time of the Chinese New Year holiday later this month.

So will 3D TV flop in China, or is it just crazy enough to work? The country's growing class of wealthy consumers may be a receptive audience. Such TV sets are already selling faster than the dearth of 3D content would suggest.

IHS iSuppli analyst Kathleen Zhang estimates there were more than 5 million 3D TV sets shipped in China this year, and that shipments next year could reach 12 million units.

But the key may lie in how good the 3D content is, and how quickly that content expands.

So far, the people buying 3D sets aren't making much use of the bundled glasses. They've been willing to buy the 3D sets because their prices are close to ordinary 2D TVs, justifying the expense for the chance to make use of the 3D function in the future, Zhang said.

But that's a start, Zhang said.

"The market is promising and the quality of 3D content is growing," she said. (Agencies)

When an American girl meets a Chinese man

Popular blogger shares interracial marriage tips

By Han Manman

When American Jocelyn Eikenburg, 33, married a Chinese man in 2004, it was still rare to see a white woman tie the knot with a Chinese man.

Things have gradually changed since then, but it's still uncommon to find couples in interracial marriages who talk about their experiences. Certainly it's rare to find someone as candid about it as Eikenburg, who runs the website Speaking of China.

Through sharing her stories of love and family – the good and bad – Eikenburg has become a leading voice for those who want to learn about the dynamics of a relationship between a white woman and a Chinese man.

"Are Jewish women more likely to marry Chinese men? How my anti-Japanese Chinese husband changed his mind about Japan ..."

These are among the topics from Jocelyn Eikenburg's blog Speaking of China, a personal account of how an American woman found love in the Chinese countryside – and the things that happened next in the cross-cultural relationship.

She writes about how she met her husband, a Chinese man from rural Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province with the English name John, in 2002 at an online company in Hangzhou when working.

They met through a mutual friend's arrangement. Eikenburg fell in love during the summer of that year after John took her out for her birthday.

"He treated me to a five-course dinner at a cozy little vegetarian restaurant in Hangzhou, and then whisked me over to a bench under the willow trees on Su Causeway, where we sat under the stars beside the West Lake and eventually had our first kiss," Eikenburg recalled. "It's still hands down the most romantic evening I've ever had."

The two decided to get married in 2004.

However, it wasn't always smooth sailing.

Eikenburg said she knew that most Chinese are



Eikenburg and John at their wedding ceremony

Photos provided by Jocelyn Eikenburg

expected to get married and have children. "But I was raised to believe that children are a personal choice. I never really had a strong desire to become a mother," she said.

"So you can imagine how I felt when my mother-in-law tells me, after our wedding ceremony, that I need to have children as soon as possible," Eikenburg said, adding that while her husband told her he understood it wasn't the right

time for kids, he also mentioned he expected to have kids sometime.

"We ended up having a major argument about it," she said.

The two grew up in different places, and cultural differences are sometimes the cause for arguments. Eikenburg used to get upset when John spoke to her in a voice that sounded gruff, but John never understood why.

"But when I visited his family and watched how his parents and relatives spoke, I noticed they used this kind of voice all the time, and it wasn't perceived as angry or threatening in any way," she said.

"It took an observation for me to finally 'get it,' but I could have avoided years of arguments if I had tried stepping back from my anger to have a conversation with my husband about it," she added.

Eikenburg said communication is really necessary "because many times, you might perceive the same thing in drastically different ways and not even realize you're doing it," she said.

Feeling like there weren't enough foreigners in China exploring what it means to be in love in China and become part of a Chinese family, Eikenburg started Speaking of China in 2009 and shared various stories about her marriage and about the relation-



John's father sits between the married couple.

ship with her in-laws.

"Many of my readers – foreign women or Chinese men in relationships – have told me my site is like a community to them, a place that connects us all together," she said.

To answer the various questions from her readers, Eikenburg began a column called "Ask the Yangxifu" (foreign wife).

"The most common question I receive from Chinese men is where to meet foreign women, while foreign women are often unsure of how to 'read' Chinese men," she said.

Eikenburg's blog won followers not only from China, but also worldwide. She was named one of the "101 Inspiring Women Bloggers to Watch for 2010" by US-based *WE Magazine*.

John has become Eikenburg's biggest fan and supporter. And when Eikenburg has an idea for a story – whether about Chinese culture or cultural differences or the unique experience of being in a relationship with a Chinese man – she'll first ask John about it.

"His perspective, as a Chinese man and PhD student in psychology, is so insightful because he often can get to the heart of behavior and culture in a way that no one else I've known really can," she said.

Eikenburg said she is also working on a memoir about her marriage, which she hopes to publish in the next few years.

Currently in the US as John pursues his doctorate, Eikenburg said they are determined to return to China next year after John finishes his program.

"I'm so eager to return because I've always loved living in China," she said.

Eikenburg's tips for foreign woman who want to have a Chinese boyfriend

Remember that most Chinese still date with the intention of marrying. That's not to say people don't break up. However, most of the time, people will only date someone they consider marriage material – and that's different from what many foreign women are used to.

Keep your past relationships to yourself. One of the Western wives I know once told me her husband never wants to hear anything about her ex-boyfriends, and I've heard the same from others. At the same time, be careful about sleeping with a guy too soon. It may reinforce the "foreign women are easy" stereotype and, if you're with a more traditional guy, it might make him decide you're not marriage material.

Keep an open mind, because you're dealing with a man who grew up in a different culture, who was socialized to do things differently from you. I encourage people to read anything they can about Chinese culture, because it helps you understand him a lot better. If you haven't yet, start studying the language even if he speaks great English – it will come in handy when you meet his family and friends later on.

Italian ambassador: 'Italy's boot ready to kick the crisis back'

Italian ambassador to China Attilio Massimo Iannucci recently published an article on Xinhua's website stressing that Italy has the confidence to get out of the ongoing eurozone debt crisis. Below are his words.

As Italians emerge from the current holiday season they know that 2012 will be a trying year – one that will possibly define the future of the country beyond the current generation.

This comes as no surprise to Italians because 2011 has already tested them beyond their expectations. 2011 was supposed to be a year of celebration as the nation feted the 150th anniversary of the reunification of the Italian peninsula under Piedmont Savoy's dynasty, with a ceremony marked by the presence of high-level officials coming from around the world. China honored my country with the presence of Vice President Xi Jinping.

But with the crisis from Greece, Ireland and Portugal spilling over into the bigger European economies such as Spain and Italy, the structural problem of public debts within the eurozone provided international financial speculators with painful leverage.

To prove its commitment to the economic benchmark of the times – budgetary discipline – within the space of six months Italy changed government and passed three austerity budgets, the one more severe than the other. The last one, which was approved by the Italian Parliament just before Christmas, in a case of the government feeling the pain of the common man, even elicited public tears from a cabinet welfare minister.

Yet, despite the gloom of the current economic outlook, Italians know



Attilio Massimo Iannucci
Photo from ce.cn

that the fundamentals of the economy are strong. Just to mention few but significant signs: a small budget deficit, a low debt of the private sector, a strong manufacturing sector (second in Europe only to Germany, the fifth in the world), a solid financial condition of households, the soundness of the banks and limited foreign debt.

While Italy has been endowed with great beauty, its land has a remarkable lack of natural resources. Its greatest asset is human capital, which over a span of 3,000 years – almost at a par with China – has made the Italian peninsula a beacon of civilization and ideas, a source of bewildered admiration from foreign visitors.

Italians are not only an inventive, creative and resourceful people. They also remain thrifty and industrious one. SMEs (Italy's "pocket multinationals" as they are called) give a sound economic contribution and guarantee the country's prominence in world exports. These companies are known for their niche specialization and the quality and

reliability of their products. It is no small feat that in the middle of the severest world recession since 1929, the country is still achieving one of the largest foreign trade surpluses in manufactured products.

Italians remain frugal and wary of private debt. The financial condition of Italian households is solid. The household total net wealth is high by international standards estimated at 178 percent of the size of the GDP. In the real estate market – like in China, also Italy's favorite investment – prices are stable, thus preserving families' net worth. True to the legacy of a people that has produced 19 Nobel Prize laureates, Italy's educational performances appear in line with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries.

The Canadian American economist John Kenneth Galbraith once remarked that the real reason for the miracle of post-World War II Italian reconstruction was that "Italy had incorporated in its products an essen-

tial component of the culture found in cities such as Florence, Venice, Rome, Naples and Milan."

The claim that culture is Italy's oil sounds true still today. There are few other ancient civilizations that have steadily produced as much as Italy.

Culture is well rooted in our past and it is also a pillar of the present, of progress and sustainability.

The gravity of the economic challenge posed will not deter Italy from remaining in 2012 actively engaged in the international arena, where since 1945 it has been a provider of peace, stability and security, also outside of its immediate reaches in the European continent and the Mediterranean.

History has often put Italy in the position of being "Europe's comeback kid." We have been there before and while we do not necessarily relish this situation – far from it – we know that we can come back successfully one more time and overcome the challenges ahead in the incoming Year of the Dragon. (Xinhua)

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Project gathers Americans in China



Project Pengyou encourages Americans in China to share their China story on the online community.

Photos from projectpengyou.com



By Han Manman

Americans in China now have another way of buddying up with fellow citizens: a new online community called Project Pengyou is calling for new members.

Pengyou means "friend" in Chinese, and Chinese people often refer to Americans as their *Meiguo pengyou* ("American friends").

"The site will encourage people-to-people interaction and build a community of Americans who have 'China experience,'" said Holly Chang, director of Project Pengyou.

She said the project, a non-profit, non-governmental social venture with funding from the Ford Foundation, is the alumni network of US president Barack Obama's 100,000 Strong Initiative. It is designed to boost the number of young Americans who study abroad in China and help individual members strengthen connections, forge new networks, develop career opportunities, share insights, expand knowledge and enrich their China experiences.

"I may hold the official title of US ambassador to China, but you are the everyday US ambassadors, people who are working all over this country in business, in education and in government relations," US ambassador Gary Locke said to a group of American students during the project's launch ceremony last month in Beijing.

"Project Pengyou is just starting to build its community," Chang said. Her team has launched a "Share Story"



feature that allows American expats, both former and current, to sign on as members and post stories about living in China.

Many have already joined. While some shared loved stories about finding a Chinese wife, they shared their study experience or factoids about interesting people they've met.

"For those who stay in China a couple of weeks, the most challenging China moment would be the chance to finally order in a restaurant," wrote an American named Holly Zhao. "For those that stay for a couple of months, it's fighting through bureaucratic nightmares at the bank to set up an account."

"For those that are irresistibly drawn to the promise and opportunity that China offers no matter the headaches and the pollution, the most challenging China moment is the moment that makes you realize what an incredibly different person you've become through your accumulated China experiences ... and

whether that change has been for the good or for the bad."

Krystal Flores, another American in China, wrote, "As a Mexican-American, China is something extremely different to me. Its rich history interests me. Its current economic situation and future potential engage me. Its language brings a smile to my face."

"I came to China to learn about the people, their history, the language, myself, and how to help my country in the future by getting to know China now. I am still here in China because I continue to learn so much more every day."

Chang said her team is planning to gather all the best stories to publish in a book in the future.

She said in the future Project Pengyou also plans to host social and professional networking events for Chinese citizens that study or have studied in America.

For more information, visit projectpengyou.com.

Event

Leaving the country with pets

It's never too early to start preparations for taking pets overseas. Come join experts from the International Center for Veterinary Services as we share step-by-step instructions on the exit process and vaccination requirements for leaving the country or moving to other Chinese cities with your pets.

The latest 2012 regulations for China, EU countries, North America and Asia will be shared in addition to advice on pet transportation safety and minimizing travel-related stress for you and your pets.

Where: International Center for Veterinary Services, Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou (shares a courtyard with China Culture Center), Chaoyang District

When: January 14, 11 am – noon

Tel: 8456 1939 / 1940 / 1941

Cost: Free

Roundabout book fair

The Beijing Rego British School will again host a Roundabout Book Fair. Its first book fair with Roundabout in November raised 50,000 yuan that is being used to purchase coal for two orphanages – one in Xuanhua, Hebei Province and the other in Shanxi, near Taiyuan.

Children's books start as low as 1 yuan; paperbacks are 10 yuan; hardbacks are 20 yuan; coffee table and art books are individually priced. The selection is huge, but children's books sell out quickly! Book donations may be dropped off at the school prior to the fair.

All proceeds will be used in Roundabout's efforts to purchase coal for poor orphanages in China. In the past, many children have lost fingers and toes due to frostbite they developed from living in extremely cold conditions. Come to the Book Fair and help provide the gift of warmth this winter!

Where: Beijing Rego British School campus, 15 Liyuan Jie, Shunyi District

When: January 14, 10 am to 3 pm

Tel: 8416 7718

Cost: Free

Beijing writers' group

This close-knit group of literary buffs provides constructive feedback on creative writing. You can bring a couple of copies of something you've written and the group will read it and discuss it over drinks.

Where: The Bookworm, Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Monday, 7:30 pm

Tel: 6586 9507

Cost: Free

(By Han Manman)

Pet pooch dies under suspicious circumstances

Professional pet carrier services in demand

By Annie Wei

A Beijing family who planned to celebrate Chinese New Year in Hainan had their vacation ruined by news of the death of their dog, which supposedly ran onto the tarmac at a Hainan airport Monday while being loaded into the plane.

The family posted the story and photo of their dog on Weibo, and the post was forwarded more than 10,000 times the next day.

Someone from the Zhou family said they had asked for air carrier service. Hainan Airlines said security cameras got footage of the dog running out of the crate and onto the runway; to avoid affecting other flights, an airport employee allegedly shot the dog to death.

The Weibo was posted by the daughter of the Zhou family, who said her family had the dog, called Gege, for four years. She said it was hard to accept Hainan Airline's explanation.

She expressed her suspicions on her blog: the standard air crate for Gege was



The Zhou family posted pictures of its dog, Gege, which was reportedly killed in a Hainan airport. Photo by BQB

not broken, though porters told her mother that they had no idea how the dog ran out; from the photo of Gege's body, it looked like the dog was beaten to death.

Zhou said she hoped the responsible person and organization would make an open apology and give a reasonable cause for her dog's death.

She also hoped the airline would fix its problems in the pet carrier service and insure the safety of other pets' transportation in the future.

Hainan Airline told the public that it is still negotiating compensation with the Zhou family. This is a particularly topical issue considering how many more

families in recent years have searched for ways of taking their pets to another city or out of the country.

Yang Huazhi, a Taiwan woman, said she felt lucky that her five pets – three cats and two dogs – were sent to Beijing from Shanghai safely by a professional pet carrier.

"They are quite professional," Yang said. "My flight was at 1 pm, but they came in the early morning to pick up my pets on the same day."

Yang said the service had everything a pet owner would need, like animal feed, water and lock in the crate to prevent the animals from running away when they are scared.

"The most convenient part is they help with all the certificates and pick up and deliver my pets to locations as required," she said.

It was not cheap though. The Shanghai Tianlin Dongwu Tuoyun (shatianmin.com) charges 710 yuan for a 4- to 5-kilogram dog.

"I think maybe you can bargain the price down, which I am not good at," Yang said.

Mary Peng, manager of International Center for Veterinary Services, said increasing numbers of pet owners are asking for professional carrier service.

She recommended three companies. "These companies are not cheap but they have experience, knowledge of different airports and regulations of different countries," Peng said.

Globy Pet Relocation

Tel: 8762 5020

Email:

Beijing@globypetrelo.com

Website:

globypetrelo.com

World Care Pet Transport

Tel: 8459 3008 / 2858

Email:

kevinkiki@gmail.com

Website:

worldcarepet.com

Asian Tigers

Tel: 6415 1188

Email:

general.pek@

asiantigers-china.com

Website:

asiantigers-china.com

Calling emergency air support

By Annie Wei

For people who plan to travel deep into rural areas but are concerned about lack of emergency relief, there's now a solution.

In the direst of emergencies, one can dial 999 or 010-999 to get a helicopter transfer to the nearest major hospital.

Tuesday morning, a 5-year-old Swedish boy was transferred from Zhangjiakou, a ski resort 200 kilometers outside Beijing, to New Century International Children's Hospital.

The 999 emergency center said they received a call on Monday morning that a boy was badly injured during a ski run.

The center arranged for a medical crew and contacted Beijing Capital Airline Helicopter Service to schedule a pickup.

He Chi, vice president of Beijing Capital Airline Helicopter Service, said his com-

pany dispatched two pilots – who each had 5,000 hours of flight experience – a doctor and a nurse from Beijing SOS to take the boy and his parents back to the capital.

The helicopter took off for Zhangjiakou at 9:10 am and returned to a helipad on North Fifth Ring road at 11:40 am.

By 7 pm, the patient had been transferred to an emergency care department.

The total cost was 100,000 yuan, a chunk of which would be covered by the family's overseas insurance company.

The average standard fee is 30,000 yuan per hour.

Tian Zhenbiao, vice director of 999 emergency center, said helicopter transfers are still uncommon in China because they are expensive.

He said they were working with local insurance companies to find funding and lower the cost.

The flight supplier, Cap-



A rescue team arriving at a snowboarding camp in Zhangjiakou, northwest of Beijing, to pick up an injured Swedish boy and take him back to Beijing for medical care.

Photo by Man Yi / BQB

ital Airlines, said it would introduce 12 more helicopters for emergency use, covering all the way down to Zhujiang Delta in Guangdong Province.

How to call a helicopter:

Anyone can dial 999 for consulting. The emergency center will decide if the patient needs to be transferred via air depending on the patient's

condition, location, weather and air traffic management. 999 also needs to consult with the patient's doctor to see if the patient is suitable to be transferred via air.

By He Jianwei

The ballet gala has been a perennial feature of the National Center for Performing Arts (NCPA) since 2009. Each year, the center invites the world's foremost ballet troupes to present their most popular works.

For ballet fans, it is a rare chance to see the bewitching glamor, flexible movements, deft leaps and breathtaking swirls of classical and modern ballet.

But this year, the NCPA is planning a second gala that would give Chinese classical, folk and contemporary dancers a chance to shine.

After four years of fast development, the NCPA has become recognized by many international artists. Now it hopes to use that acclaim to promote the nation's own dance superstars.

Dance galas bring superstars



Moonlight by Yang Liping

Photos provided by the NCPA

Jo



The number of famous dancers a gala can draw says much about a theater's prominence. Each year, the world's theaters vie for the top position.

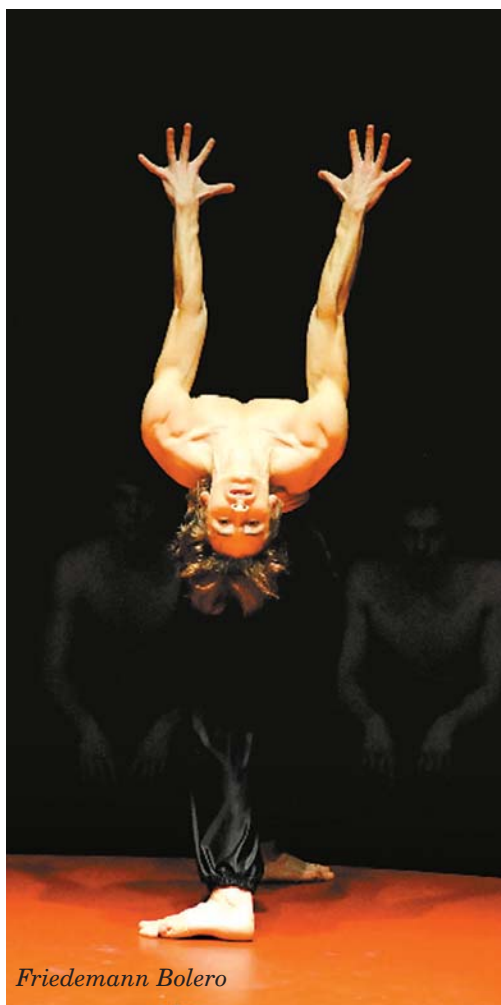
Four years ago, drawing on the personal connections of Zhao Ruheng, the NCPA made a name for itself by bringing many international ballet stars to Beijing's stage. Today, many theater companies are demanding the chance to perform on its stage.

This year's international ballet gala will bring in 12 dancers from the American Ballet Theater, the Bayerische Staatsballett, Stuttgart Ballet, Aterballetto, Mikhailovsky Theater and the National Ballet of China to perform classics like *Le Corsaire*, *La Dame Aux Camelias* and *Sleeping Beauty*, as well as pioneering modern works.

Among ballet's most celebrated dancers, Daniil Simkin from the American Ballet Theater is a new rising star. He is relatively small, has a light build and a youthful demeanor, but he is famous for his exceptional jumps, the speed and precision of his pirouettes and his instinctive communication with the audience.

Born in 1987 in Russia to a ballet family, Simkin and his parents left their home country in 1990. They first stayed in Austria and then in Wiesbaden, Germany, where Simkin spent the rest of his childhood and first appeared on the stage. From the age of six, he often danced beside his father.

Simkin has won first prize in several world-leading ballet competitions since his teens, including the gold medal at the 21st International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria in 2004, Grand Prix International Ballet Competition in Helsinki, Sweden in 2005 and Senior Gold Medal at the US International Ballet Competition in 2006.



Friedemann Bolero

Two years later, he became a touring soloist at the American Ballet Theater and a regular on the international ballet gala.

"Every important international theater will present a gala every year. The audience loves this kind of performance, not only because they can see the superstars, but also because they get to feast their eyes on the best of

Every important international theater will present a gala every year. The audience loves this kind of performance, not only because they can see the superstars, but also because they get to feast their eyes on the best of dance."



Gillian Murphy in Black Swan

dance," Zhao said.

"Maria Eichwald and Friedemann Vogel from Stuttgart Ballet will perform the pas de deux from *La Dame Aux Camelias*. The program is usually only performed in full, and never as part of a gala."

But the international ballet gala is not the only thing the NCPA is planning for this season.

The center is inviting Chinese dancers to present masterpieces of Chinese classical, folk and contemporary dance, including familiar dance classics such as the solo dance of Dai ethnic group, but also award-winning pieces from the National Dance Competition and CCTV Television Dance Competition.

Yang Liping is the most famous of the dancers who has been confirmed as attending.

Born in Dali, Yunnan Province, Yang is a member of the Bai ethnic group. At the age of nine, she moved with her family to Xishuangbanna and grew up in the deep mountains. She loved to dance as a child, but she never attended dance school.

Yang joined the Xishuangbanna Song and Dance Troupe when she was 13 because of her extraordinary gifts. Her pure and mellow dance style is a result of her unique figure, intelligence and artistic inspirations from the city's culture landscape.

She became famous for her performance in the Dai ethnic dance drama *The Peacock Princess* in 1979. Seven years later, she choreographed and performed *The Soul of the*



La Dame Aux Camelias

Peacock, winning two first prizes at the second National Dance Competition – one for choreography and the other for performance.

She will perform the solo dance *Moonlight*, which bases its movements on the silhouettes of trees, birds and snakes against the backdrop of a moon.

The NCPA is also promoting younger talents such as Wang Yabin. The 27-year-old Wang trained in classical techniques at Beijing Dance Academy and has matured into one of foremost exponents of contemporary dance.

Wang, who began dancing at the age of eight, found fame overnight when she choreographed Zhang Yimou's film *House of Flying Daggers* in 2003 and performed a traditional dance as the stand-in for lead actress Zhang Ziyi.

After collaborating with the director, she got opportunities in several TV dramas and became a popular actress in China. But she considers herself more of a dancer than an actress.

In 2010, she performed pas de deux at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Guangzhou.

She started the "Yabin and Her Friends" program as a choreographer, director and dancer to give young dancers an opportunity to show their talents and to bridge the dialogue between traditional and contemporary dance. The program has aired annually since 2009.

She will present *Light Rain Overnight* on the NCPA's stage, which is a solo dance from the third episode "Expecting with Faith."



Light Rain by Lucia Lacarra (above) and Marlon Dino

2012 NCPA Chinese Star Dancers Gala

When: January 14-15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 160-600 yuan, 680 yuan for VIPs

2012 NCPA International Ballet Gala

When: January 19-20, 7:30 pm

Admission: 160-680 yuan, 780 yuan for VIPs

Where: Opera Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

Tel: 6436 8998

The King of Calypso from Harlem

By Charles Zhu

American singer Harry Belafonte tells of his twisted and exciting life in the Harlem slums, his first calypso record and his immense success in the singing world in *My Song*, a memoir co-written with Michael Shnayerson.

The songwriter, actor and producer has been dubbed the “King of Calypso” for popularizing the Caribbean musical style with an international audience in the 1950s. He is perhaps best known for singing “The Banana Boat Song,” with its signature lyric “Day-O.” Throughout his career he has been an advocate for civil rights and humanitarian causes.

Belafonte was born in Harlem, New York, to a Jamaican cleaning lady, Melvine Love, and a ship cook named Harold Bellanfanti. From early childhood, he experienced and endured the stress of poverty when his family was squeezed into a room where four families shared one bathroom. The image of his father was one of a drunkard with blood on his hands, yelling and beating his mother.

It was simply “a terrible claustrophobic closet of fear,” he says.

His mother found comfort in the Catholic Church. She took him to Mass every Sunday, dressed in a blue suit, and afterward to the Apollo Theater to hear Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald. “As suffocating and interminable as Mass seemed, I could endure it if I knew that a few short hours later I’d be in the real cathedral of spirituality ... the Apollo.”

“Most of the famous black Americans of the day lived there, rubbing shoulders with the rest of us; they certainly weren’t welcome in the fancy buildings south of 96th Street,” Belafonte said.

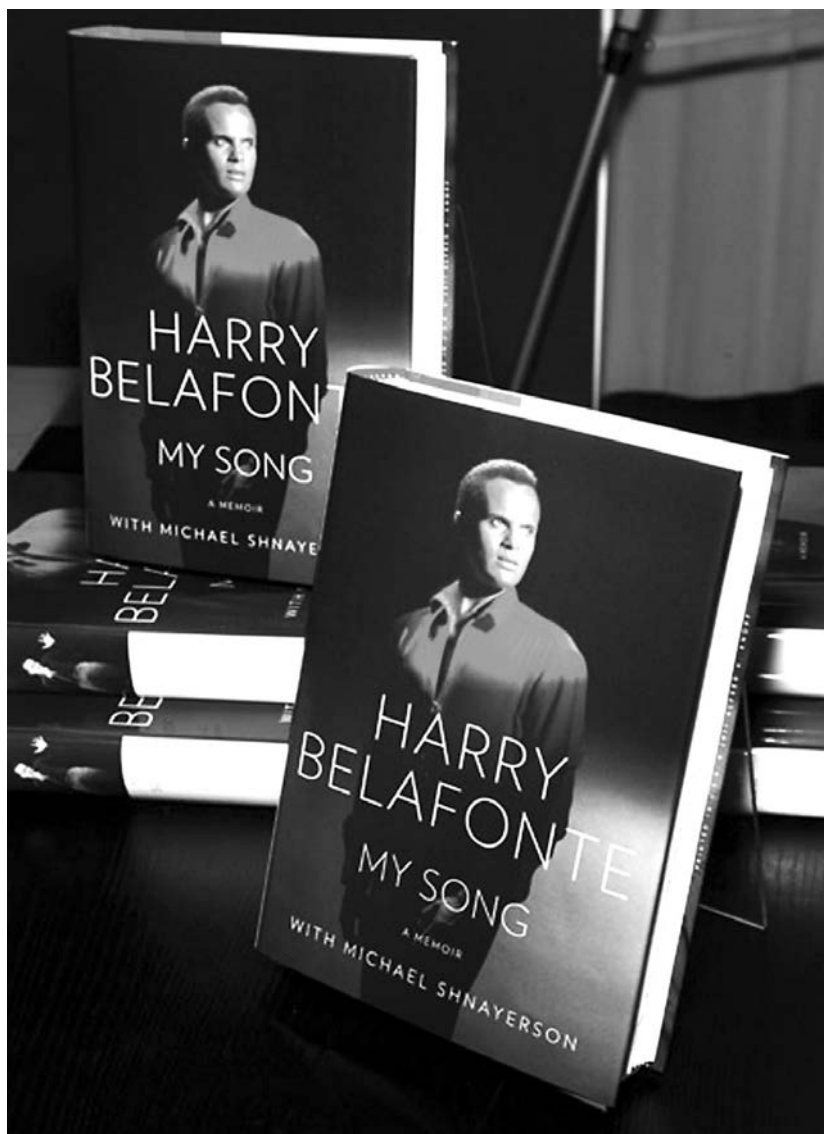
One of his cult heroes was A. Philip Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. “I just loved watching him lead his troops through Harlem on parade, with their red collars and shiny buttons and red caps tilted just so. Everyone admired the porters ... because they were worldly – they traveled far and wide – and because most had college degrees.”

He recalls that his mother took him and his younger brother, Dennis, back to Jamaica in 1936. Harry loved his white Jamaican grandmother, Jane, who lived in a wood-frame house on stilts on a hillside near Ocho Rios.

“For the rest of my life, I would feel an unusual sense of ease in moving between races and classes – an ease that would help me as an entertainer, later as an activist,” Belafonte writes.

Despite his opposition, his mother sent him to a British-style boarding school, a life-altering experience that Belafonte said ended in tears and the permanent loss of his mother as a supportive figure.

When he returned to New York, he dropped out of high school, enlisted in the Navy and served until 1945. He then worked as a janitor in an apart-



My Song: A Memoir

By Harry Belafonte and Michael Shnayerson, 480pp, Knopf, \$30.50

ment building on Amsterdam Avenue. One day when he was repairing Venetian blinds for a tenant, an actress in the American Negro Theater, she gave him tickets to a play.

That play altered the course of Belafonte’s life. It was a play “about returning black servicemen trying to establish postwar lives in Harlem. That play didn’t just speak to me. It mesmerized me.”

He became so enthusiastic about the theater that he joined the company, then a theater workshop at the New School. Among his fellow students was Marlon Brando. Speaking of Brando, he says, “I’d never met a white man who so thoroughly embraced black culture. He loved going with me to jazz clubs. Marlon was a prankster; if he saw you napping, he’d tie your shoelaces together. But as a friend, he was bedrock loyal.”

After seeing Belafonte sing onstage in a New School production, saxophonist Lester Young got him a gig at the Royal Roost jazz club. “I’m not a singer. What you saw me do was acting,” said Harry Belafonte, but he took the job singing songs like “Stardust” and “Skylark” and made his debut with Charlie Parker, Max Roach on drums, Tommy Potter on bass and Lester Young’s pianist, Al Haig –

four jazz celebrities doing a favor for an unknown guy.

In 1951, he turned toward folk music, chain-gang songs and ballads, and in 1952 he made his first calypso record, *Man Smart (Woman Smarter)*. He made his Las Vegas debut at the Thunderbird, where he learned that he could master a crowd of loud drunks by walking onstage stern-faced and singing at the top of his voice.

“I would feel the crowd growing tense. When at last I switched to an upbeat song – and flashed them a first grin – I could hear the collective sigh. For the rest of the act, I could be as light and jokey as I wanted to be. They were mine.”

Talking about his role as a gangster in Robert Altman’s *Kansas City*, he writes, “I realized I could play mean. I just had to summon that old hard streak, the one that had pulled me out of poverty.”

Belafonte went through three marriages and fathered four children. He talks frankly as an autobiographer of his gambling addiction and anger. The Harlem poverty and wounds of childhood urged him to be tenacious and become so successful.

Trends Lounge book listing

Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of books about international art, design and architecture.



Eyewear

By Moss Lipow, 392pp, Taschen, \$59.99

Eyeglass designer Moss Lipow trawled eBay, auction houses, garage sales and flea markets worldwide to collect photographs of unusual glasses for his massive eyewear collection. This book, which traces eyewear’s journey over the past millennium, features the best examples of Lipow’s collection and models from other world-class collections.



The New York Times 36 Hours

Edited by Barbara Ireland, 700pp, Taschen, \$39.99

The *New York Times* has been offering up dream weekends with practical itineraries in its popular weekly “36 Hours” column since 2002. The many expert contributors, experienced travelers, and accomplished writers all have brought careful research, insider’s knowledge and a sense of fun to hundreds of cities and destinations, always with an eye to getting the most out of a short trip.



Brazil's Modern Architecture

By Elisabetta Andreoli, 240pp, Phaidon Press, \$39.95

In this book, a new generation of Brazilian cities and historians sets the record straight, providing a truly comprehensive survey and analysis of 20th-century Brazilian architecture. This book clarifies the often paradoxical relationship between Brazil’s political, social and economic history and its architectural development.

(By He Jianwei)

“For you, it is trash, but for me, it is treasure.”

From trash to treasure

By Zhang Dongya

Some people struggle when it comes time to part with their belongings. Whether it's a broken computer or a scrap of paper, they can always find a reason not to send it to the trash. While psychologists would call it "hoarding," many like Hogan Lee call it a lifestyle.

Lee has collected junk for years, piling it up in every corner of his house. In 2010, he filmed the short documentary *Trashy Treasure* to record his life with junk. The film has been selected for online screening by the Cnex foundation.



Lee found two "fake heads," washed them and hang in the yard.

When Hogan Lee first started to work in the arts, he found himself saddled with a project that had an impossible budget. Unable to purchase props, Lee turned to dumpster diving in hopes of sourcing salvageable materials.

He started with the neighborhood garbage and moved on to scrounging the streets of Keelung, a city in northeastern Taiwan. Sometimes he would venture into the city dump with local vagrants for rotting "treasures."

Rooting through trash became a habit for the 27-year-old, and one he engaged in even when he wasn't battling a tough budget.

"For me, it's like a game. You don't know whether you will win with any of the junk you find," Lee said.

"Whenever I find something new, I start wondering whether it's worth taking. If I have something similar or if it's too big to carry or dig out, then I give up. If I can't decide, I leave it up to the nearest traffic light. If the light is red, I go back and dig it out. But some-

times, when I go back, it turns out someone else already took it."

For certain junk – photo frames, files, letters, bags and suitcases – Lee will grab them without hesitation.

Each new acquisition makes Lee wonder about the stories of the object's former owner.

Most of the junk he brings home gets stored in his grandparents' house – a 70-square-meter room they left to him when they died. Lee washes everything before bringing it inside and sorts it to keep the home neat and organized. Though it may be organized, it still looks like a rented storeroom.

Lee's hobby helped him meet Nani, a woman who also collects junk for use as props in her performances. She said she considers each piece of junk a friend. She was very shy before. She prefers using junk for creating her props because it makes her feel "relaxed and secure."

Later, they found many other people who share the



Hogan Lee and Nani collected some junk including dusty paintings, bags and sculptures, which they assume belonged to a German woman.

Photos provided by Cnex

habit of collecting junk, but who just aren't as crazy as they are.

Lee and Nani filmed a 20-minute short film that despite its preachy premise turned out lively and warm. It records the two as they walk Keelung's streets to collect junk. Along the way they acquire two "fake heads," which they wash and hang in the yard, as well as several dusty paintings, bags and sculptures. The two assume the former owner to be a German woman who is studying Chinese.

"I like to think about the relationship between trash and its owner. I was always wondering why things end up thrown away. Did the owner relocate, or did they replace something? What was the owner like?" Lee said.

When it comes time for Lee

to part with his own trash, it is a heartbreaking experience. He struggled when he had to call the environmental bureau to take away a big table that he had no room to store.

In the documentary, Lee and Nani move their collections to the storeroom in Keelung for a "family photo." The junk occupies all the space in the room, with Lee and Nani sitting in the center. Included in the heap is everything they collected from the German woman.

Lee's previous family photo hangs on the interior wall. The photo, taken when Lee was only three, shows a room with far fewer "family members."

The storeroom was overflowing by the time the two finished filming. They kept some important things and gave up others. Some were donated and others recycled.

Hogan Lee and Nani took a "family photo" with the junk they collected at Lee's grandparents' house.

Filming the documentary helped Lee learn to part with his garbage, and today he is no longer an active hoarder. He still thinks about junk when he has to seek out props. Sometimes he has to enlist the help of the Internet to search for junk in other countries.

"Watching a documentary gives us a way to observe life. I looked back at myself as I was three or four years ago and decided it was time to make a change," he said. "I think I would still be hoarding if I hadn't made this film. But today I see that there's no way I can ever collect everything."

"Junk needs somewhere to belong, and the only person who can give it that is the one it is destined to end up with."

Since the film, Lee has taken an interest in Taipei homes, which he considers another form of trash. Many homes no longer house people and have been abandoned by their owners. He is considering writing a book or holding an exhibition about the former lives of the homeowners.

Cnex online screening

Cnex is a film foundation created by professionals from the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong. It has released 10 films for online viewing at ent.sina.com.cn/z/CNEX. The group plans to release a new film each week.

Gifts for besties



Marni earrings, prices to be determined



Lanvin necklaces, prices TBD

By Annie Wei

As fans of *Sex in the City* know, for ladies, it doesn't matter if you're in a relationship – in the big city, you're liable to feel lonely without a group of female friends.

Treat your friends to some nice jewelry this season. Accessories come in many styles and price ranges, so you won't run into the risk of buying the same thing for everyone.

This season, you'll find pieces with vintage looks, or in the chunky style, or in candy colors, or with crystals and fake diamonds – the possibilities are numerous.

Designer brands

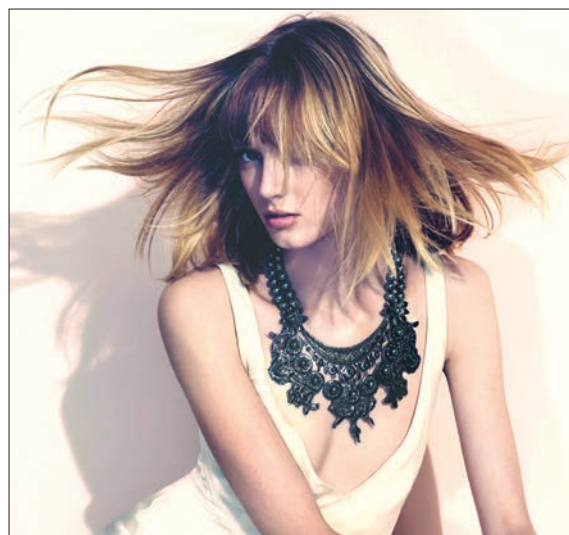
Is a diamond a woman's best friend? No, unless you are rich enough to purchase a big one that everyone can notice.

But stores like Miu Miu, Lanvin or Marni in Sanlitun North sell the next best thing: fake diamonds. The jewelry isn't expensive but still tasteful.

A Marni plastic flower necklace costs 900 yuan. The Lanvin necklaces, with many layers of silk and fake pearls, start from 2,000 yuan.

Marni

Where: Sanlitun North, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 8 pm
Tel: 6417 6110



Tasaki jewelry, prices TBD

Tasaki: quality pearls and design

For a nice collection, we recommend Tasaki's latest design (starting from 13,800 yuan). We particularly like its latest design – delicately made of two layers of black pearls and chunky lace-shaped pendants.

Tasaki is a Japanese jewelry brand that raises, processes and sells its own pearls, which are naturally grown to reach a perfect shape.

Its 2011 to 2012 collection was designed by Thakoon Panichgul, a New York designer, who brings the brand a more international, sophisticated and feminine look.

Tasaki store

Where: 1st floor, Wangfujing Department Store, 255 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6528 3292
Website: tasaki.com.cn

Photos provided by Tasaki

Do-it-yourself

Fake pearls are available at online stores for do-it-yourself projects. Accessories are cheap. You can get 50 pearls for 10 yuan, or 25 necklace buttons for 50 yuan. Please note that delivery companies are off starting January 15 for Spring Festival.

Websites: store.taobao.com/?shop_id=62944773
store.taobao.com/?shop_id=61232153

CFP Photos



East Wine Cellar



Rayne Vigneau 2009, 600 yuan

The city's largest wine cellar, with food

By Annie Wei

Dalangtaosha hotel chain launched its latest project, East Wine Cellar, near Guomao in the central business district this week after two years of preparation and an investment of 45 million yuan.

With three floors and a basement, it is the biggest cellar in town, with a capacity of more than 100,000 bottles.

To match its theme, the cellar offers French and fusion Chinese food. Goose liver, oysters, seafood and fine steak are served with paired wines.

For a company outing or group meal, the seafood platter (800 yuan), a typical southern French cuisine with oysters, lobsters and crabs, is a must-try.

Wang Jieming, the cellar's chief sommelier, recommends Rayne Vigneau 2009 (600 yuan) from Bordeaux, France, which has a gold color and honey and white flower aroma, to pair with the seafood.

The cellar does not list prices for each dish, but a lunch set menu with a main course, a soup and bread costs 588 yuan, with a 15 percent gratuity fee.

For appetizers, the scallop and small onion salad is a good choice to match with a

sparkling wine.

We recommend its steak, made with Australian beef, a classic choice to go with red wine.

Grilled cod is the specialty of the chef, who has lived in southern France for many years, a dish that pairs well with Bordeaux white wine.

To finish the meal, try the restaurant's mango and egg pudding, a chef's special, and complete it with a fruity-aroma sweet white wine.

The building is done in a European Gothic style, combining an open corridor for the lobby with a high dome. It can accommodate 500 people.

It also has a dining area, lounge and cigar bar, with VIP rooms and an outdoor terrace that opens in the summer.

The cellar has lots of parking space available.

East Wine Cellar

Where: 1017 Shengshi Longyuan, Sihui, Chaoyang District (take the first exit off Sihui, Jingtong highway, walk 500 meters east, turn right at the gate of Shengshi Longyuan, pass the bridge and turn right again, walk another 300 meters)

Open: 11 am – late
Tel: 8770 6716



Grilled lamb, 120 yuan



Grilled duck, 95 yuan

Photos provided by Dong Lounge

Hidden gems tucked away in Sanlitun South

By Annie Wei

For those who work at the new office buildings at Baijiazhuang Dongli on East Third Ring Road, the options for lunch and dinner are limited – the street is full of cheap eateries packed with customers.

If you want to have a nice dining environment but don't want to walk all the way to Sanlitun Village, try Dong Lounge and bar at Taiyue Suites. It's located at the intersection of Baijiazhuang and Sanlitun Nan Lu. So far, it's lesser known and quiet.

The lounge is on the second floor of the building's north gate. The outside is painted white. Inside, it's spacious and simply decorated, with only a few tables.

All dishes are served in decent portions, and prices are reasonable for the Sanlitun area. For example, its signature

salad (75 yuan) is packed with vegetables, dry Spanish tomato, bacon, bread and Parmesan cheese.

The most popular dishes are Australian tenderloin (120 yuan), with potato biscuits, spinach and mushrooms, and grilled goose liver (95 yuan) with rum, pineapple, cherry tequila and sprouts. The latter is the lounge's specialty. Unlike traditional goose liver matched with apples, the rum and pineapple give the fat and tender goose liver a nice touch.

Other dishes include seafood pasta (75 yuan), with lots of fresh squid, shrimp and clams; grilled lamb (120 yuan) from New Zealand, with Japanese mustard.

Apart from offering lunch and dinner, it's a place for freelancers who look for new spots to have coffee and work

in the afternoon. For a snack, try its Mexico chicken roll (55 yuan), with vegetables, yogurt cream and avocado sauce. The filling is tasty, made of homemade sauce, tender chicken and sweet pepper.

The place also has a nice selection of wine and decent cocktails.

Kook Zhang, the lounge's owner, doesn't expect or need a full house of customers. "I hope it a place for my friends and I, or people who are like-minded, a place to enjoy wine and a nice meal or some quality cocktails before they head to other nightclubs," he said.

Dong Lounge and Bar

Where: 2nd floor, Taiyue Suites (walk from its north gate), 16 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 2 am the next day

Tel: 6585 2058



Seafood platter, 800 yuan

Photos provided by East Wine Cellar

Dinning

New steamed cod and shrimp dumplings arrive at Crowne Plaza Beijing

Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town welcomes you to try the steamed cod and shrimp dumplings created by Master Chef Johnson. Prepared at the live station in Cafe on the 6th floor, each dumpling is stuffed with fresh cod, shrimp, winter mushroom and winter bamboo shoots. The steamed dumpling is topped with fish roe, representing happiness and prosperity.

The nutritious and low-fat ingredients suits the tastes of health-conscious diners. Head down to the Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town at Chaoyangmen and try it now!

Where: Cafe on the 6th floor, Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town, 3 Sanfeng North Area, Chaoyang District (southeast of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Tel: 5909 6688 ext. 3219

Clay Pot

Spring Festival is the most important Holiday of the year for Chinese people and is a time for family gatherings. This year, you are cordially invited to celebrate Spring Festival at the Happy Valley Chinese restaurant of Swissotel Beijing.

Traditional clay pot is a well-known Cantonese delicacy. To kick off the New Year, come share a traditional clay pot with your family and friends, or get one as a take-away.

The traditional clay pot is a combination of six cold items, double-boiled whole chicken superior soup, steamed rice with preserved vegetables and glutinous rice dumpling.

The superior clay pot includes four cold items, braised bird's nest soup with fresh crab meat, fried glutinous rice and sweet dumplings in creamy red bean soup.

The deluxe clay pot includes a combination of four cold items, braised bird's nest soup with pumpkin, pork dumplings and a fresh fruit platter.

Where: Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: January 8 – February 6
Cost: 2,398 – 4,598 yuan per table of 10
Tel: 6553 2288 ext. 2146, 2148

Havana Retro Night

Remember Depeche Mode, Bananarama, Pet Shop Boys, Yazoo, Eagles & ABBA?

Relieve the '60s and '80s era every Wednesday Night at Havana! The live band will play your favorites every Wednesday evening.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: every Wednesday evening, 8:30-11:15 pm

Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 3015



Business lunch "2-for-1"

Invite your friends to the coolest business lunch at Hilton Beijing's award-winning restaurant One East and enjoy a money-saving "2-for-1" winter special.

The creative menu is a fusion of traditional and contemporary American cuisine created by One East's professional chef. Quality ingredients ensure a dining experience you will not forget. Come and treat yourself to the taste of winter at the one and only One East.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District

Cost: 2-course lunch, 128 yuan for two persons; 3-course lunch, 138 yuan for two persons (15 percent gratuity)

Event



Chinese New Year celebration at Park Plaza Beijing Science Park

Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with friends, family and colleagues at Four Seasons Restaurant. An attractive selection of set menus featuring the best of Cantonese and Hunan cuisine has been created for the enjoyment of you and your guests this New Year's.

Where: 25 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District
When: Until February 6

Cost: 298 yuan per person (15 percent gratuity); includes free soft drinks, juice and local beer for two hours

Tel: 8235 6699



Sensational Spring Festival at Summer Palace

Ring in the Year of the Dragon with Spring Festival menus prepared by chefs Kenny Chan and Hou Xin Qing at Summer Palace.

There are three set menus and signature dishes such as Pork Knuckle with Lettuce in Abalone Sauce and Pork Tongue with Oyster and Mushroom.

Celebrate the splendid and most eagerly anticipated of all holidays, the Spring Festival, surrounded by the blessings of families and friends, delectable Chinese New Year cakes and beautifully packaged gift baskets at Summer Palace.

Make your New Year celebration extraspecial by reserving your seat now!

Where: Summer Palace, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Cost: 488 yuan for Harmony Set Menu, 688 yuan for Longevity Set Menu and 888 yuan for Prosperous Set Menu

Tel: 6505 5838

10-day intensive course in Chinese

New to Beijing and looking for a quick, intensive introduction to the Chinese language?

This course teaches the essentials needed to survive on Beijing's bustling streets. Taught by a dedicated teacher, this 10-day course will send you out with a mastery of the four tones and pinyin, as well as the basic words and expressions essential in everyday situations.

Be sure to reserve your seat early!

When: Monday – Friday 10 am – noon

Cost: 1,500 yuan

Website: cultureyard.net

Hotel

Peninsula gift baskets

The Peninsula Beijing is preparing exquisitely designed gift baskets with a selection of the finest winter delicacies and Peninsula signature items.

Deluxe baskets include the Peninsula pageboy hat; Peninsula champagne, tea and chocolates; Huang Ting homemade XO sauce and pudding; a Peninsula mug; balsamic vinegar; extra virgin lemon olive oil; panettone; homemade jam; homemade hot chocolate mix recipe; and a Peninsula page bear keyring.

The Gourmet basket includes Peninsula cookies, chocolates and red wine; pageboy teddy bear gingerbread cookies; homemade jam; and a Peninsula mug.

Where: The Peninsula Beijing, 8 Jinyu Hutong, Dongcheng District



Cost: deluxe 1,888 yuan; gourmet 888 yuan (15 percent gratuity fee included)
Tel: 8516 2888 ext. 6714

Fri, Jan.

6

Concert**Yan Pascal Tortelier and London Philharmonic Orchestra**

Selections include Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, called

"Emperor," and Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2.

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 280-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6436 8998

Nightlife**Simple Plan**

Founded in 1999, this Cana-

dian pop punk band topped the Billboard charts with hit singles "I'm Just a Kid," "Welcome to My Life" and the recent "Jet Lag."

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 280 yuan advance purchase, 380 yuan at the door

Tel: 8402 8477



Sat, Jan.

7

**Nightlife****Laurent Maur Jazz Quintet**

Led by Laurent Maur playing harmonica, this jazz quintet blends funk with modern jazz.

Where: V A Live, 13 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 9:45 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 5844 3638

Movie**Here, There (2011)**

Three distinct narratives, set in Shanghai, Paris and on China's northern border, are interwoven in a captivating story about the fundamentals of life: who we are at any set point in time.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 4 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8001

**Nightlife****Heavy Metal Night**

Six heavy metal bands – Forced Pose, New Tank, Tun Shu, P.V.Z., Nerve Resistance and The Lifeless – will perform tonight.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 40 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door

Tel: 5205 1112

Sun, Jan.

8

Mon, Jan.

9

Drama**Walk Up and Walk Down**

Known as *The Odyssey of China*, this play penetrates into the innermost soul of contemporary wandering urbanites. It

loudly states that people are visionary animals trapped in the city.

Where: Multi-functional Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 160-280 yuan

Tel: 6436 8998



Tue, Jan.

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**Exhibition****Youth – On Wu Tao (1969-2001)**

Born in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, Wu Tao was an artist in Yuanmingyuan in Beijing between 1993 and 1994 after he graduated from the Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang. This exhibition presents 22 oil paintings that he left when he committed suicide in 2001. It also presents paintings and video by his friends.

Where: 01100001, 245 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until February 12, daily except

Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5127 3204

Nightlife**YukseK**

The French electronic music producer, remixer and DJ

released his second album, *Living on the Edge of Time*, last year.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 10:30 pm

Admission: 150 yuan advance purchase, 220 yuan at the door

Tel: 8402 8477

Wed, Jan.

11

Thu, Jan.

12

Movie**The Ice Storm (1997)**

Set on Thanksgiving weekend of 1973, this film looks into the lives of a wealthy Connecticut family who are calm and civil on the outside, but whose lives are quietly falling into chaos.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 5900 9473

(By He Jianwei)



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Next week

Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Li Qian

BEIJING TODAY

Lost in the snows of Mt. Emei

By Zhang Dongya

Those who are fond of snow might not think going south is the right move to find it, but the scenery at Mt. Emei in Sichuan Province will change your mind.

Emei is almost the ideal place for those seeking ice and snow: in the snow-capped mountain, you can glimpse hard rims in the early morning – a phenomenon that occurs when the water droplets in fog freeze – go skating in the afternoon and soak in a hot spring resort during the evening.

As one of the Four Sacred Buddhist Mountains of China, Emei also has temples and pavilions, and its peak is home to the famous Puxian Golden Statue.

In November and December, snow sometimes falls on Mt. Emei for more than 10 hours at a time, transforming the mountain into a snowy dreamscape.

The climb can get a bit monotonous if you're going by foot up the endless stairs, but at least the air will be fresh and cool. You'll see a variety of green pines sheathed in white.

Mt. Emei is famous for its Buddhist architecture and culture. It has more than 20 temples – the first you'll encounter is Shengji Temple. The old trees beside it are still standing strong, looking stalwart in the snow.

Many cultural relics in the temple are worth seeing. The most famous are the bronze statue, bronze bell and bronze pagoda. The bell, which was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), is said to be the largest in Sichuan.

The largest temple in the mountain is Fuhu (crouching tiger) Temple. First built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), it was rebuilt and extended in early Qing (1644-1911). It gained its present name because the mountain behind the temple resembles a crouching tiger.

After being

rebuilt, it holds the distinction for having the most halls among the temples on the mountain, with multiple eaves.

Heading up to Qianfo (thousand-Buddha) Summit, you will see colorful sutra streamers waving in the wind, as if you were in Tibet.

From afar, you will see Minya Konka, a well-known snowberg. Snow can be seen there year-round.

In addition, Emei is home to thousands of wild animals and rare plants, including the black stork and stump-tailed macaque. The monkeys of Emei are dubbed a "live spectacle." They are not afraid of visitors and enjoy playing with them. There is an ecology district for macaques located in Qingyin Temple, a Tang Dynasty temple. In a long and narrow valley is the macaque protection area. Along the way, you will see several monkeys jump out. Sometimes, they'll stop you and ask for food.

Spectacles in Golden Summit

The Golden Summit is where all visitors head. The golden statues are solemn in the winter, while the golden halls shine even more when viewed from a distance.

The Golden Summit, with a height of more than 3,000 meters, is the symbol of Emei. It gathers the most splendid architecture. From there, you can see the greatest spectacles, like the sunrise from a sea of clouds.

As the sun ascends, the sky will go from purple red to orange and finally to



The Golden Summit is the destination for all climbers.

golden red. On a clear day, you'll see clouds forming in the wind. They drift quickly and churn out different shapes and images – sometimes like mountain, sometimes like traveling islands.

Winter is the best season to view the sunrise on Emei, between 6 and 7 am. The sun will come up with the sea of clouds, which is very rare to view in other seasons. Stay a little on the peak and you'll see the grand view of clouds, best viewed between 9 and 10 am and 3 to 5 pm.



Visitors will see stump-tailed macaque while climbing Mt. Emei.

Travel information

Getting to Mt. Emei: Take a flight to Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport and take a bus to Minjiang Restaurant (10 yuan), then take bus to Emei Mountain Scenic Spot from Xinnanmen Travel Center Bus Station. Or take a train to Chengdu (the fast train takes 27 hours from Beijing) and transfer to another train to Emei (the fast train takes about two hours), then take a bus from the Emei Train Station to Baoguo Tourists Center, which takes about 20 minutes.

Tel: 0833-5090 114

Admission: 90 yuan.

Extra admission costs:

Baoguo Temple: 8 yuan; Fuhu Temple: 6 yuan; Wannian Temple: 10 yuan

Cableway to and from Golden Summit: 50 yuan; cableway to and from Wannian Temple: 50 yuan

Accommodation

There are several food streets in the city and at Mt. Emei Scenic Spot. Local dishes and snacks like barbecue, hot pot, steamed chicken and duck in sour soup are recommended.

Ski and soak

Leidongping Ski Resort is the biggest mountain ski resort in Sichuan. It is divided into different areas: mountain ski resort, beginners' zone, snowball fighting zone and ice sculpture district. After skiing, you can go for a soak in the hot spring resort. The biggest hot spring resorts on Mt. Emei – Hongzhu Forest Hot Spring, Lingxiu and Yoga Hot Spring – are located near Baoguo Temple.

Leidongping Ski Resort

Open: 9 am – 5 pm

Tel: 0833-5098 025

Admission and cost:

80 yuan per hour per person, 20 yuan to rent ski suit and 5 yuan to rent ski gloves.

Mt. Emei has turned into a snowy dreamscape after a big snowfall at the end of last year.

CFP Photos

